

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

Shari T. Wilson
Secretary

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Deputy Secretary

February 2, 2010

The Honorable Dereck Davis, Chairman
Members, Economic Matters Committee
Room 231, House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-1912

Re: House Bill 224: Plumbing – Greywater Recycling

Dear Chairman Davis & Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on House Bill 224 which defines greywater and prohibits a County from adopting or enforcing a provision of a local plumbing code that would prohibit recycling of greywater as allowed under the State Plumbing Code. The Maryland Department of the Environment would not be prohibited from adopting or enforcing code more restrictive than the State Plumbing Code.

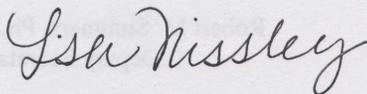
As it currently stands, the State Plumbing Code provides the minimum standards for plumbing across the State. Local jurisdictions may establish their own plumbing code; however a local plumbing code must be at least as stringent or restrictive as the State code. This bill would prevent Counties from enforcing greywater recycling provisions of a local plumbing code more stringent than the State Plumbing Code. The State Plumbing Code is not enforced by MDE and the Department has no information as to which jurisdictions may have more restrictive greywater recycling provisions.

Greywater recycling requires a dual water system, one potable and one non-potable. Each system must be adequately identified and the potable water supply must be protected from cross-contamination and back-siphonage. Local jurisdictions would be responsible for inspecting and testing the system to ensure compliance with the State Plumbing Code and to ensure the potable water supply is protected. This may require use of resources having a fiscal impact on local governments. MDE has no information to determine the magnitude of the impact.



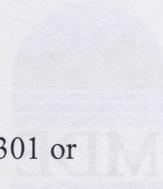
If you have any questions regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at 410-260-6301 or lnissley@mde.state.md.us.

Sincerely,



Lisa Nissley

cc: The Honorable Delegate Dan K. Morhaim
Heather Barthel, Director of Legislation and Policy, MDE
Jay Sakai, Director, Water Management Administration, MDE



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